



RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REINSTALL THE BARRIERS ALONG THE MAUKA SIDE OF KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY ADJACENT TO LANIAKEA BEACH AS AN EMERGENCY INTERIM TRAFFIC SAFETY MEASURE DUE TO SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS.

WHEREAS, Kamehameha Highway is the principal roadway that provides residents of the City and County of Honolulu ("City") access to the communities along the North Shore of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, Kamehameha Highway is also heavily utilized by visitors sightseeing, participating in outdoor recreational activities, and enjoying the natural resources along the North Shore, both in private vehicles and tour buses; and

WHEREAS, Laniakea Beach is a beach on the North Shore of Oahu that is known for its Hawaiian green sea turtle population and is popular with both residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, motorists visiting Laniakea Beach often park on the undeveloped City property on the mauka side of Kamehameha Highway and cross the highway to the beach on foot, resulting in traffic congestion and an unsafe situation for pedestrians and motorists; and

WHEREAS, to mitigate the unsafe situation, the State Department of Transportation ("DOT") installed concrete barriers on the mauka side of Kamehameha Highway adjacent to Laniakea Beach in December of 2013, which was effective at alleviating traffic congestion and improving safety conditions; and

WHEREAS, the placement of the concrete barriers was challenged in court and the Circuit Court of the First Circuit ruled that the barriers had to be removed in July 2015; and

WHEREAS, long-term solutions to the unsafe conditions at Laniakea Beach are being considered by the State, the City, and the community; and

WHEREAS, while these long-term solutions have been considered, the unsafe conditions at Laniakea Beach have continued and were highlighted by a recent incident in which a child was struck by a motorist while crossing Kamehameha Highway on his way to Laniakea Beach; and



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WHEREAS, the DOT recently commented that an express statement by the City that there is no existing City park mauka of the highway adjacent to Laniakea Beach and that City has no intention of developing a park in that location would allow the DOT to reinstall the barriers on Kamehameha Highway; and

WHEREAS, the City has no park nor any immediate plans to develop a park on the mauka side of that section of Kamehameha Highway adjacent to Laniakea Beach; and

WHEREAS, an immediate solution to the public health and safety concerns at Laniakea Beach would be to reinstall the barriers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Governor and the State Director of Transportation are urged to reinstall barriers along the mauka side of Kamehameha Highway across Kamehameha Highway from Laniakea Beach in order to alleviate traffic in the area and to preserve the health and safety of the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is urged to designate two parking stalls near the lifeguard tower (Tower 30B) at Laniakea Beach that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act for vehicles transporting persons with disabilities; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Hawaii State Director of Transportation, the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Director of Emergency Services.

INTRODUCED BY:

Hon. Kunihiro

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

SEP 13 2019

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers